

ALSATIAN TOWN, EIGHT MILES FROM MUELHAUSEN, FALLS BEFORE FRENCH ADVANCE

FRENCH CAPTURE TOWN EIGHT MILES FROM MUELHAUSEN

Alsace Offensive Continued With Important Gains in Altkirch Region—Germans Blow Up Argonne Trenches.

PARIS, Jan. 8.—The capture by French troops of Burnhaupt-le-Haut, only eight miles southwest of Muelhausen, Alsace, is announced in an official statement issued here this afternoon. The statement also said the French troops had resumed their offensive in Flanders and had gained some ground near Lombaertzyde. At other points on the long battle front, extending from Switzerland to the North Sea coast, the French troops have advanced their trenches. They are now complete masters of Hill No. 45, in the Altkirch region, they having driven the Germans from the position they had held.

The statement admits that the Germans had a slight success in the Argonne region, blowing up some trenches and forcing the French back 20 yards. The following dispatch from Belfort gives a good idea of the fierceness of the fighting around Steinbach and Altkirch: "In taking the German trenches upon the heights near Steinbach the French had to ascend steep slopes, which were slippery with snow and ice, at the same time cutting their way through barbed wire entanglements. The German machine guns played upon the advancing French with unmerciful accuracy and soon the snow upon the hillside was dyed red.

German sharpshooters had evidently been ordered to pick off the French officers, for the list of killed among the men of rank was unusually high. As soon as the heights were taken the difficult task of hauling artillery to the summit was begun. The slippery condition of the slopes made this exceedingly hard. The results, however, more than paid for the hardships, for when the guns got in action the Germans were soon compelled to fall back from their new positions. Steinbach was bombarded until the French entered the western part of the village; then the French artillery had to cease. Steinbach was completely destroyed by the bombardment and resultant fire."

RUSSIANS ROUT TURKS IN BATTLE NEAR VAN

Block Foe's Retreat Through Olti Valley.

PETROGRAD, Jan. 8.—Another defeat for Turkish arms in the campaign of the near-east is announced here officially. The battles have been fought in the Van region, to the south of the sections of Ardagan and Sari Kamysh, where the Turks were utterly routed. It is stated that the 15th Army Corps has suffered a disastrous defeat in Van. The reports say:

"The Russian cavalry in the Caucasus overtook and broke into the 10th Turkish Army Corps fleeing from Sari Kamysh along the Olti valley. The Turks suffered enormous losses. Many batteries were taken and 600 prisoners were brought into Kara. The Russians have blocked the retreat of the Turkish army by seizing the southern egress of the valley. Its entire equipment has been destroyed and its staff has been captured."

TEN RUSSIAN AIR CRAFT SMASHED BY GERMANS

Zeppelins Reported Engaged in Poland Battles.

BERLIN, Jan. 8.—Russia's flying corps has been badly crippled by the effective work of the German aerial guns in Poland. Co-operating with the artillery forces used to combat aerial raids, the German aeroplanes and Zeppelins have engaged in thrilling struggles with the aviators of the czar, and in every instance have come off victorious.

Official announcement was made today that in the recent fighting at Lode and Lowicz 10 Russian airships were destroyed by the Germans. Seven of these were smashed by the aerial guns and the other three were brought down by the German aviators. Only one German machine was damaged.

It was announced also that German airships had dropped two bombs on Dunkirk, one of the French coast bases of the Allies. These, however, did no damage, as far as the German aviators were able to learn.

CZAR DRIVES AUSTRIANS BACK IN BUKOWINA PASSES

Russian Van Pushes Foe South, Vienna Officially Admits.

VIENNA, Jan. 8.—Austrian forces in Bukowina have been compelled to fall back before the Russian sweep of Franz Josef's crownland province. This disastrous development of the campaign of defense of Austria's home territory is admitted in an official report from headquarters made public today.

The Russian advance has been pushed into southern Bukowina, where the Austrian patrols were obliged to retreat before the czar's vanguard. The enemy is in superior numbers and his objective seems to be Transylvania.

Austrian troops in their withdrawal have fallen back from the main pass of the Carpathians, the official report says. This is probably Borgo Pass, possession of which furnishes another gateway to Hungary. Questions on the Galician frontier and military duels along both the Dniester and Vistula rivers are reported in the official announcement.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH

The enemy's artillery showed during all the day of January 7 great activity in Belgium and in the region of Arras. The French artillery responded sharply and effectively. Our infantry realized some progress near Lombaertzyde, where we captured 50 yards in front of our trenches a hill occupied by the enemy.

To the east of St. Georges we have gained some ground. We have seriously damaged the enemy's trenches in the neighborhood of Steenstraete. In the section of Arras, at the forest of Rethonval, we without being attacked, evacuated certain parts of the trenches where our men were up to their shoulders in mud.

To the left of La Boisselle our line of trenches has been carried forward. We now occupy the highway from La Boisselle to Aveluy.

In the valley of Alsace are artillery duels have been very sharp. Our heavy artillery has obtained good results. Near Blanc Sablon the mine throwers of the enemy inflicted losses upon us, but in the afternoon we stopped the Germans' fire.

In the section of Rheims, to the west of the Bois de Zouaves, we blew up a blockhouse with a mine and occupied a new trench 300 yards in front of our line.

The artillery combat between Betheny and Frunay has been very hot. The Germans have left numerous dead upon the field. Our losses were small. Between Jonchery-sur-Suippe and Bouzilly we silenced in several fights the enemy's artillery, wrecked some trenches and destroyed some abatis.

In the Argonne, to the west of the heights of Chevauchee, the enemy blew up with a mine a few of our trenches of the first line, which were completely wrecked.

A violent attack which the enemy made immediately thereafter was repulsed with the bayonet. We took some prisoners and maintained our front, except on one line extending for eight yards, where the wrecking of the trenches compelled us to establish our line 20 yards in the rear.

On the heights of the Meuse and between the Meuse and the Moselle there is nothing to report. The wind blew a gale all day.

Our offensive has continued in the region of Thann and of Altkirch and has obtained important results. We have retaken the trenches on the east slope of Hill No. 45, where the enemy had succeeded in reinstalling himself two days ago.

We subsequently gained ground to the east of these trenches. Further to the south we have captured Burnhaupt-le-Haut. We have, at the same time, advanced in the direction of Aspach bridge and of Kahlberg.

The enemy's artillery, which had tried without success to reach our batteries, has ceased to fire upon them, bombarding only the hospital of Thann, which has been evacuated.

AUSTRIAN

Our advance patrols in southern part of Bukowina had to fall back on the main pass before the superior numbers of the enemy.

(The main pass in southern Bukowina is Borgo Pass, leading through the Carpathians to Hungary.) Everything is calm on the Hungarian and Galician frontier. On the Dniester River (in Western Galicia) and in Russian Poland artillery duels have occurred.

TURKISH

In fighting near Urmiah, Azerbaijan province, Persia, two detachments of Russian troops were taken prisoner and 100 men were killed. As a result of the reverse of Urmiah, the Russian morale has been broken.

Four thousand Russians have been completely vanquished near Miandoab, losing 200 men killed, while the Turks, who were aided by Persians, took six men.

Our troops advanced from Samol and Isfilfont and occupied Uzza, an important Russian point of support.

GERMAN

In the western theatre of war the continuous rain and swampy ground in Flanders are hindering our operations greatly.

East of Rheims, the French attempted to take one of our trenches in a night attack, but were driven



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back on their own positions, losing 50 prisoners.

In the eastern Argonne we have made further progress.

A night attack by the French on Buckenhopf, south of Diedolshausen, in the Vosges, was repulsed.

Repeated French attacks west of Senheim broke down our artillery fire. We captured two officers and more than 100 men. Fighting continues for Ober-Burnhaupt, south of Senheim.

(Ober-Burnhaupt is Burnhaupt-le-Haut, which the French announced today they had captured.)

In the eastern theatre of war, the weather continues unfavorable. There is no change in East Prussia or northern Poland.

Our attacks are progressing east of the Rawka (west of Warsaw). Sixteen hundred Russians and five machine guns have been captured.

Only artillery battles have occurred on the east bank of the Pilica.

BELGIAN PRIESTS MURDERED BY GERMANS, IS CHARGE

Twenty-six Massacred at Mechlin Alone, Says Report.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The Belgian Legation today gave out a lengthy statement, in which they declared that the Catholic clergy of Belgium had suffered especially through the German invasion. Churches had been destroyed or profaned in every city and town through which the Germans passed.

Many had been utilized as stables, the statement says, and in some cases the sacred vessels had been stolen, while priests had been shot, hung and "subjected to abominable maltreatment." In the Diocese of Mechlin alone, it is said, 26 priests were massacred without cause, while specific instances of the flogging and torturing of others are cited.

CROWN PRINCE AT LIEGE

Kaiser's Heir Reported in Belgian Town December 28.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 8.—The German Crown Prince Frederick William was at Liege on December 28 and left the following day for Germany.

The Germans are utilizing the large automobile factory of Nagant Freres at Liege for the manufacture of military automobiles. Large forces of German troops continue to traverse Tournai, Verriers, garrisoned by elderly members of the landsturm.

The weaving mills of Belgium are silent and idle because of lack of materials.

GERMANS CROSS POLAND RIVERS

Continued from Page One

cided effect on the outcome of the conflict. Beyond the Uxok Pass lie the great oil fields of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The occupation of Transylvania, it is felt here, would have a tendency to induce Rumania to enter the arena on the side of the Allies and bring the Balkan situation to a head. The reduction of Cracow would open the way for an invasion of Silesia.

The Russians invading Bukowina have occupied Cypot and Kameral, south of Satein, and also Illschette on the road to Plesketchik. These towns are on the direct route from Bukowina to Transylvania.

The latest advices received here indicate that the Austrian armies, reinforced by Germans, have succeeded in stopping the progress of the Russian armies in western Galicia.

WARNED OF ZEPPELIN RAID

Lord Rosebery Issues Orders for Towns' Safety.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Further evidences that a German raid, probably by Zeppelins with escorting aeroplanes, is expected was shown today when it became known that Lord Rosebery, acting in his official capacity as Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian, had issued instructions to the population regarding their action in case of a German hostile movement.

Civilians are sternly urged to refrain from any hostile actions, but to remain quietly in their homes and let the regular soldiers do the fighting. Other orders, including the mobilization of the home guard, are also given.

COTTON TO GERMANY SAFE

Allies' Action on Contraband Met by Berlin.

BERLIN, Jan. 8.—Among the items given out by the official German news bureau today was the following: "The American embassy in Berlin has been advised from Washington that France and England have agreed to eliminate cotton from the list of contraband articles. Therefore cotton can be sent into Germany without risk of seizure."

Turk Minister Reported Slain.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 8.—Reports that General Jemal Pasha, former Minister of Marine, had been assassinated were in circulation here today. An official denial of the rumors was issued.

MERCIER IS CAPTIVE OF GERMANS, BRITISH CHURCHMEN CONTEND

Denial of Arrest by Berlin Denounced as Untrue. Belgian Cardinal Not Seer Since Sunday.

PAPAL OFFICIAL CONFERS WITH GERMAN ENVOY

ROME, Jan. 8.—Cardinal Pietro Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, and Prince von Buelow, head of the German Embassy here, held a conference this morning which lasted for three-quarters of an hour. It is understood the arrest or detention of Cardinal Desire Mercier, Archbishop of Mechlin, was the subject of their discussion. No report of the meeting was given out.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The status of Cardinal Mercier was today the chief topic of discussion in England, overshadowing the immediate war news. The denial by Germany that the Cardinal had been arrested and confined in his palace is declared by high Catholic dignitaries, including Cardinal Bourne, to be untrue. They point out the fact that he was unable to appear as had been arranged at Sunday's special service at the Antwerp Cathedral proves conclusively that he was under restraint.

Only force, it is said, would have prevented his taking part in that service because of its peculiar significance.

Already stirring protests have been sent to the Vatican by the British clergy, who demand that the Pope take action to force Germany to respect in every way Cardinal Mercier's authority in Belgium.

THE CARDINAL'S LETTER.

The much discussed paragraphs of the pastoral letter of Cardinal Mercier which, the Netherlands newspaper Tjld said, had been responsible for his arrest by the German military authorities in Belgium, an arrest which the German authorities have categorically denied, have been published in pamphlet form in London. They are as follows:

"I consider it an obligation of my pastoral charge to define your duties of conscience toward the power which has invaded our soil, and which at this moment occupies a greater part of it. That power has no authority in law. In the sanctuary of your soul you owe it neither esteem nor attachment nor obedience. The sole legal power in Belgium is that which is derived from our King, our Government and the representatives of the nation. This alone for us represents authority; this alone has a right to the affections of our hearts and to our submission.

"Of themselves, the acts of those in occupation are without force; but the legal authority ratifies tacitly those acts which are justified in the general interest, and from this ratification alone they derive all their judicial worth.

BELGIUM NOT CONQUERED.

"The occupied provinces of Belgium are not conquered provinces. Belgium is no more a German province than Galicia is a Russian province. Nevertheless, the occupied part of our country is confronted by a situation to which it must submit. The greater number of our towns have been handed over to the enemy.

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emy; they must respect the conditions of their surrender.

"From the beginning of military operations the civil authorities have insistently recommended that private persons abstain from acts of hostility against the armed enemy. These recommendations are still in force. Our army alone is charged with the duty of our national defense. Let us know how to await at its hands the final deliverance; let us comfort ourselves as the general interest demands. Let us respect the regulations they (the Germans) impose on us so long as they do not attack our liberty of Christian conscience or the dignity of our patriotism."

RUSSIA HAMMERS TRENCHES OF GERMANS AT MLAWA

Gain Slowly But Steadily in Advance to East Prussia.

PETROGRAD, Jan. 8.

Russian troops are again attacking the Germans at Mlaw, which has changed hands five times since the war began. The fighting extends east and west from Mlaw over an 18-mile front, and is resulting in heavy losses on both sides. The Russians are slowly but steadily advancing, however.

Resumption of the Russian offensive in the Mlaw region was permitted by the success of the Russians in holding back the German drive upon Warsaw from the west. In their trenches running from the Vistula west of Kumpolaska, through Wischaka and Mezenow, the Russians are repelling the attacks of the Germans who have crossed the Bura River.

The slight retirement of the Russians east of the Bura, which permitted the Germans to cross that stream, was due to the heavy artillery fire of the Germans. The Russians withdrew to their second line of trenches, out of range of the German guns, which cannot be brought across the Bura. The Germans are conducting regular siege operations in their attempts to take the Russians' second line trenches.

190,000 TURKS MASSES FOR INVASION OF EGYPT

Ex-khedive Predicts Egyptian Revolt Against Britain.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 8.—A dispatch from Cologne says that the Turks have concentrated their principal army, consisting of 120,000 regulars and 70,000 Bedouins, at Jerusalem for an attack on Egypt.

A Cairo dispatch says:

"It is a fair estimate to say that the Turks have in Syria 70,000 men, while there are in Lebanon 17,000 more belonging to the command of the late Djemal Pasha."

A dispatch from Geneva gives an interview by the ex-Khedive of Egypt to the representative of the Vienna Neue Freie Presse. Abbas Hilmi Pacha takes a very pessimistic view, and there is nothing of German-Turkish bombast in his declaration. He says:

"It must be understood that Egypt is wise, and does not wish to revolt just now, a revolution being in the present circumstances foredoomed to failure; but if a Turkish army enters Egypt, it may be regarded as certain that the Egyptians, faithful to their feelings in favor of the Turks, will join with them and create for England a situation full of dangers."

MOSLEMS, IN PANIC, RUSH MEN AND GUNS TO CONSTANTINOPLE

150,000 Troops Concocted for Defense of Ottoman Capital—Serious Internal Disorders Caused.

SALONIKA, Greece, Jan. 8.—The Turks are preparing to defend Constantinople to the end. All the available artillery at Adrianople has been taken to the capital and only 4000 troops have been left there, according to advice received here today.

One hundred and fifty thousand troops have been concentrated in the peninsula of San Stefano, a suburb of Constantinople, for the defense of the capital, and fortifications are being erected here.

Official announcement was made that the Grand Vizier and some members of the Cabinet will leave tomorrow to review the forces at Adrianople, recruited since the war began.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 8.—This may explain the report sent to Sofia that the Turkish Government is preparing to flee to Adrianople. The authorities fear not only attacks from the outside, but are in constant alarm over internal disorders, several of which have been nipped within the few days. These have been caused by the news of the Russian victory in the Caucasus. Many of the archives of the State have been sent to a place of safety and the remainder are ready for instant transportation.

AUSTRIAN ROUT IN DANUBE

Serbs Drive Invaders From Island River.

NISH, Serbia, Jan. 8.—Attempts by Austrians to occupy small island of Adia, Tsigoula, in Danube opposite Belgrade, have been frustrated. It is officially announced: "A fairly large force of Austrians occupied the island on Sunday," says a statement, but the next night our routed the enemy, capturing three officers and 45 men. Our losses were negligible."

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